

careless about the choice of food as the parental instinct grew less urgent when the breeding season was nearing its close? In any case the popular belief is probably not entirely unfounded, and even if deliberate poisoning is ruled out as impossible, it is not unlikely that unwholesome food administered by parent birds sometimes expedites the end of captive chicks.

IMPERIAL RECORDS DEPT.

S. N. SEN.

NEW DELHI,

September 19, 1944.

[It seems more likely that the chicks died of under feeding than through any 'unwholesomeness' of the food. Young birds have enormous appetites and it is reasonable to suppose that the parents were unable to satiate the caged chicks on account of their confinement. Eds.]

17.—THE BIRDS OF MYSORE.

In the 1943 December issue, *Scolopax rusticola*, the Woodcock, is described as a rare winter visitor. As to its being a winter visitor, yes, but personally, I should not call it rare, but then I may have been fortunate in my locality.

My estate is 3,600 ft. above sea level situated on the inner slopes of the Western Ghats, and during the last 20 years it is seldom that I have been unable to flush a cock between January and the full moon of April, from the cardamom ravines and small streams of the estate and the neighbouring jungle.

My observations go to show that they come in with the full moon of December and go out with that of April, there are certain favourite lies where I can invariably flush one, and not infrequently they are in pairs.

I have shot three in a morning, and I find that the weight is as a rule 21 oz, a good dog is most necessary as they sit very tight and once flushed are great runners.

A bird I have not seen mentioned is the 'Malay Bittern' *Gorsachius melanolophus*, the first one I saw and shot was in 1904, and at that time the Society did not possess a specimen, since then I have seen quite a few mainly in the bamboo jungle of the Bhadra Valley.

JAVALI P.O.,
MYSORE STATE,
July 14th, 1944.

R. G. FOSTER.

18.—ADDITIONS TO THE BIRDS OF BOMBAY AND SALSETTE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD.

The Large Gray Babbler : *Argya malcolmi* (Sykes).

A solitary bird was seen on top of Trombay Hill on 2nd August 1942—an obvious straggler. It is common in the Deccan though it has not been observed near Khandala.

[The South Indian Black Bulbul : *Microscelis psaroides ganeesa* (Sykes)

The Fauna records this species from Matheran, and Novarro and McCann have seen nests with eggs at Khandala in June and August. Local name 'gobhai'.]

The Gray-headed Flycatcher : *Culicicapa ceylonensis* sub sp.

Winter visitor. On 26th December 1941 H. A. obtained a specimen in heavy forest a few miles south of Kasa, in the Mahim District north of Wada. Another was obtained at Kihim, Kolaba district, on the same day the following year! Sálím Ali noted it on the same day the following year! Sálím Ali noted it at Mulund, Salsette, on 23rd December 1943.

The Grasshopper-Warbler : *Locustella naevia straminea* (Seeböhm.)

This inveterate skulker was first noticed in tall dry grass on the borders of a swamp when snipe-shooting near Mumbra (11th Jan. 1943). We have subsequently met it on several occasions across the Harbour, at Powai and also at Lake Beale (Ghoti). A bird shot on 15th November was in general moult, wings, tail and body. It is apparently a fairly common winter visitor.

The Jungle Wren-Warbler : *Prinia s. sylvatica* (Jerdon.)

Several birds seen on scrub covered hills under Sāgardadh near Alibāg, April 24th, 1943. Almost certainly noted also at Suriamal on 1st June, 1941. Several seen at Shil, near Kalyan, 27 Jan. 1945.

Richard's Pipit : *Anthus richardi* (Vieillot.)

We shot a specimen (female) within 10 minutes of having obtained our first *Locustella naevia*, near Mumbra (11th Jan. 1942), wing 90 mm., tarsus 31 mm., hind toe 12 mm., hind claw 16.5 mm. Several were seen, and we subsequently got another at the Chembur-Katcherpatti on 25th January. It appears to be another regular winter visitor, so far overlooked. In the field it appears larger and darker than the other pipits. It frequents wet ground about snipe marshes etc.

The Green Munia : *Stictospiza formosa* (Latham)

A party of 4 apparently feeding on grass seeds was seen at Tansa Lake in September 1943.

[The Belgaum Flowerpecker : *Dicaeum concolor subflavum* (Stuart Baker)

Stuart Baker in *Nidification* (vol. iii, p. 243) refers to this species from Khandala and Mahableshwar, but the authorities and sources are not quoted.]

The Little Sunbird : *Leptocoma minima* (Sykes).

This is common at Khandala where it nests among the topmost leaves of *Strobilanthes* during March and April. A male was

noted building (27th March 1944) at the top of *carwandah* bush just below Karnaala Fort (Funnel Hill) across the harbour. We have also seen it at Bāwa Malang, Vajrabai and Suriamal, but not in Salsette Island.

The Malabar Black Woodpecker : *Macropicus javensis hodgsoni* (Jerdon).

This bird was seen at Suriamal on 1st June 1941 (*J.B.N.H.S.*, vol. xlii, p. 933).

The Red-winged Crested Cuckoo : *Clamator coromandus* (Linnaeus).

A bird flew into the Society's rooms on 7th November 1900 (*J.B.N.H.S.*, vol. xiii, p. 696). This bird was erroneously entered *C. jacobinus* in *J.B.N.H.S.*, vol. xl, p. 165.

The Sirkeer Cuckoo : *Taccocua leschenaulti* (Lesson).

On 21st June 1942, two birds were seen on a scrub-covered hillside with occasional trees on the mainland near Thana. Another turned up in a beat near the Vaiturna River near Khardi. Was also noted at Khandala on 22nd March 1943. The red beak and the white-bordered tail are distinctive.

The Crested Swift : *Hemiprocne coronata* (Tickell)

There is no record in Salsette Island but birds with flying young were observed (23rd April 1943) on a teak-covered hillside under Sāgargadh, near Alibag across the harbour. Other records are from Vajrabai Hot Springs (26th December, 1941, and 6th September, 1942), Khardi (8th March and 18th April, 1943), Mandwa on Wada Road (31 August 1941).

The Common Grey Hornbill : *Tockus birostris* Scop.

A single bird was seen at Powai Lake on 29th April 1945. The nearest record is from the Deccan, east of the ghats. The Malabar Grey Hornbill (*T. g. griseus*) is common at Khandala and has been seen in Salsette on several occasions.

The Mottled Wood Owl : *Strix ocellata* (Lesson).

We have no specimen, but have heard the eerie and distinctive 'chu-hoo-wah' at Elephanta (28th March 1942, Sālim Ali), at Khordi on the Vaiturna River (18th April 1943) and at Kihim (22nd April, 1943). Observed by S. A. in mango grove at base of Trombay Hill. The large amount of yellowish-buff on the wings is conspicuous in flight.

The Sind or Severtzof's Shikra : *Astur badius cenchroides* (Severtzof).

When examining some specimens in the Society's Collection together with Mr. H. G. Deignan, of the U.S. National Museum, we measured two females (Bombay City, 9th October 1906, Mr. Keyes; and Malad, Salsette, 17th November 1939, E. Henriques) as having wings of 223 mm. These measurements correspond with those of the Northern race, which may be a winter visitor to our

area. Koelz measures 9 females from the Londa District as 199-209 mm.

The Indian Tawny Eagle : *Aquila rapax vindhiana* (Franklin).

This has been inadvertently omitted so far, though it is often seen during the cold weather when snipe-shooting. Powai, 24th Jan. 1942. Mulund 18th Jan. 1943. The beak is larger than in the pariah kite and shows more yellow at the gape. The rump is also paler and the tail rounder.

The Nilgiri Wood-pigeon : *Columba elphinstonii* (Sykes).

A single bird was seen at Matheran on 23rd April 1944. The black and white spots on the neck were prominent.

The Blue-breasted Quail : *Excalfactoria chinensis chinensis* (Linn.)

In Stray Feathers (Vol. x, p. 165) a specimen is recorded as obtained by Wenden at Vihar Lake, Salsette.

The Sanderling : (*Crocethia alba* (Pallas).

There is a specimen in St. Xavier's College marked 'Gorai', Salsette, 16th November 1936—G. Palacios.

The Indian Shag : *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis* (Stephen).

A solitary bird was seen in the large mixed colony of *P. niger* and *Bulbulcus* at Borivli on 25th August. It is distinctly large than *niger*, with a white throat and brown-speckled wings.

33, PALI HILL, BANDRA,

SĀLIM ALI,

BOMBAY.

HUMAYUN ABDULALI

19.—NOTES ON INDIAN BIRDS—A CORRECTION.

E. H. N. Lowther in *J.B.N.H.S.*, vol. xliii, p. 389, in an article on Indian Hornbills, writes of and has excellent photographs of the Malabar Pied Hornbill.

This has, however, been referred to as *H. malabarica*. The key in the *Fauna* (vol. iv, p. 286) and the tails which are distinctly visible in the photographs show that the bird meant is *H. coronata*. Paradoxically, the trivial name of *H. malabarica* is the Large Indian Pied Hornbill.

This may perhaps merit an editorial correction in the Journal.

MESSRS. FAIZ & Co.,

HUMAYUN ABDULALI.

75, ABDULREHMAN ST., BOMBAY, 3.

BOMBAY, 5th October, 1944.

20.—ACCLIMATISATION OF MIRROR CARP IN THE NILGIRIS.

One aspect of inland fishery development in Madras is the introduction of improved varieties of exotic food fish. The following new kinds have been acclimatised and bred in the Presidency.

1. Trout (*Salmo iridens*) from England and New Zealand.
2. Common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) from Europe.